

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2950

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY ANGOLAN JUNTA PRESIDENT ON RETURN FROM
LISBON

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANGOLAN JUNTA, ADMIRAL ANTONIO ALVA ROSA
COUTINHO, TRAVELLED TO LISBON LATE SEPTEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS
DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA. ON HIS RETURN TO LUANDA SEPTEMBER 22,
THE ADMIRAL MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS:

"I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM LISBON, WHERE I HAD TWO DAYS OF
FRUITFUL CONTACTS WITH HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC, AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT ON POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE
PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO ANGOLA.

I BRING FROM THE PRESIDENT A STATEMENT, WHICH HE HAS AUTHORIZED ME
TO MAKE PUBLIC, THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO TAKE INTO HIS HANDS ALL
INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE FUTURE AND
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANGOLA. REPRESENTATIVES OF ANGOLA WILL
ATTEND THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

OBVIOUSLY, I HAD OTHER CONTACTS. I GAVE A BRIEFING TO THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA. I MET WITH THE PRIME
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MINISTER AND WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, WITH WHOM I DISCUSSED
PROBLEMS PERTAINING TO THE BANK OF ANGOLA. NOW THAT THE BANK HAS

BEEN NATIONALIZED, THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO TRANSFER THE BANK'S HEADQUARTERS AND MANAGEMENT TO ANGOLA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO THE MINISTER OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION THE NEW DRAFT DECREE-LAW THAT PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TELEVISION IN ANGOLA....

"AS I SAID, I HAD FRUITFUL CONTACTS AT ALL LEVELS. THERE EXISTS IN PORTUGAL THE GREATEST UNDERSTANDING OF ANGOLA'S PROBLEMS. COORDINATION TO MESH THE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA WILL BE INDISPENSABLE AND I EXPECT TO CONTINUE THESE ROUTINE VISITS TO LISBON AS THEY ARE EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE FOR THE ACCELERATED PROGRESS OF ANGOLA.

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